

Can shrug off candidate's charges, says police director

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NORTH BRUNSWICK — Republican Township Council candidate Ruth Wiedmann this week accused Police Director George Lepre of not putting in enough work hours and blamed township officials for it.

"I've heard reports that he puts in about 12 working hours a week," Wiedmann said. "I hear he's out playing golf."

Mayor Paul Matacera quickly rose to Lepre's defense and said the police director works at least eight hours a day.

When reached for comment yesterday, Lepre — who stressed that he is not a politician — said he is accustomed to criticism around election time.

"Once a year Ruth Wiedmann comes out with a bunch of negative stuff based on hearsay," Lepre said. "Then after November we don't hear from her again until the following year. I just sit back and take my lumps once a year from these people."

As for playing golf, Lepre said he has been out on the links only about four times this year because of health problems.

Wiedmann and GOP candidate William Cook are vying against Democrats Joan Dambach, an incumbent, and Samuel DeLuca in the Nov. 7 race for two council seats.

Wiedmann also criticized the fact that neither Lepre nor Township Administrator Paul Keller lives in North Brunswick.

Mayor Matacera said North Brunswick officials believe residency requirements are not needed.